

The Lord's Prayer (*shared in unison*)

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Make Me A Servant”

No. 2176

*Benediction/Sending Forth

As you go from this place, may God bless you with wisdom, courage, and perseverance to live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ as you work, rest, play, and strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Amen.

*Response

“Bless Us Now”

Bless us now as we depart, watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen.

Postlude

Worship Resources

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession

https://ministrymatters.com/2020-08-24_worship_connection_proper_20_a/

www.umcdiscipleship.org

Opening Prayer Written by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay

Benediction - written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026



Flowers on the altar are from Debbie Anderson.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:9



The United Methodist Church of Clinton

12 Commerce Street, Clinton, CT

www.clintonctumc.org

Order of Worship

September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder: *As we sing our praise to the Lord, may we remember the multitude of blessings the Lord has given us.*

Introit

Chancel Choir

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

*Call to Worship (*Responsively*)
L: Come near to the Lord.
P: Lord, be with us this day.
L: Lift your sorrows and joys to the Lord.
P: Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.
L: Come, rest in the love and mercy of God.
P: Bless us, O Lord, that we may be blessings for others in your name. Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Morning Has Broken” No. 145

Opening Prayer (*shared in unison*)
Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (*shared in unison*)
You know how fickle we are, O Lord. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter from your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep morass and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.
Moment for silent personal confession

Words of Assurance
Feel the comforting power of God’s love and mercy in your lives. God is with us through all our experiences. Though we try we cannot stray from God’s love. Rejoice! This is the good news for all of us! Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament) Exodus 16:2-15

The Israelites complain that Moses has brought them out into the desert to die because they have no food. But God tells Moses to inform the people that God has heard their complaints and will send them food. Then, in the evening, quails fill the camp, and in the morning, manna covers the ground.
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem Chancel choir

Children’s Moment Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel) Matthew 20:1-16
Jesus tells a story about an employer who hires workers throughout the day, but pays them all the same at the end. When those who started at the beginning of the day complain, he challenges them, asking whether they resent his generosity to others. This story leads Jesus into his famous words about the first being last and the last first.
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn “O Jesus I Have Promised” No. 396

Sermon Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Offertory

*Doxology No. 95

*Prayer of Dedication (*shared in unison*)
Generous God, you have blessed us with so much. Take these gifts and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns